

University of Alaska Southeast

# WHALESONG

February 23 - March 8, 2015

The Official Student Newspaper of UAS



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# ON THE COVER...

*In a matter of weeks, the café formerly known as Waffle Co. has undergone quite the transformation! On Feb. 11, the owners of GonZo opened their doors and gave a warm welcome to Juneau's waffle lovers! With a new look and delicious, gourmet food we couldn't resist checking the place out! To learn more about the tastes to be had at GonZo, turn to page 4!*

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# — UAS Answers — Everybody's got one ...

*Were you planning on  
celebrating Mardi Gras  
this year?*



"No, I forgot that it was coming up so soon."

-Ana Christine



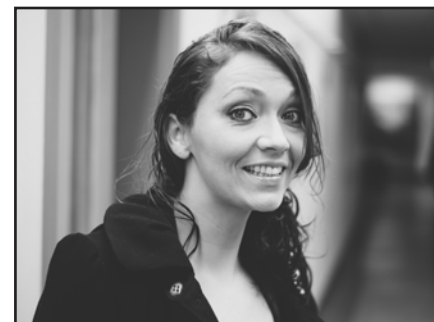
"No, I've got classes. And plus... it's on a Tuesday!"

-Ethan Kramp



"No, I don't consider it a holiday."

-Tayler Edwards



"Nope, not this year. It's not really my thing."

-Melanie Maus



"I would if I was in New Orleans!"

-Riley Norheim



"No, because I'm not sure what the holiday is really about."

-Casey Burkert



# — UAS in Brief —

## Campus Safety & The Climate Survey

In March, a sample of students, faculty, and staff across the University of Alaska campuses will receive an invitation to participate in a Climate Survey. This voluntary, confidential, anonymous survey is about safety – specifically gauging the appropriateness of our campuses' attitudes and responses to sexual misconduct (sexual harassment, assault, and relationship violence).

The goal of this survey is to help UAS understand how we can improve campus safety, outreach, education and services. We know from decades of research that sexual violence often goes unreported. UAS is committed to addressing and preventing sexual misconduct. Understanding other climate issues, such as knowledge about reporting policies and resources for victims, attitudes about prevention and perceptions about how our community is addressing the problem of sexual violence, are all critical pieces of information for improving campus responses. Your feedback and input will help us improve our policies and prevention efforts.

The survey questions were based on guidelines from the US Department of Education's Office for Civil Rights and created from a review of national, peer-reviewed studies and current campus Climate Surveys. Some of the questions will be explicit, and we recognize that this survey may not be for everyone. If you receive an invitation to participate, we value your feedback and input. But if you opt out or even choose not to complete the survey once started, we respect your choices.

UAS has a wide number of resources to assist anyone who wishes to receive support for issues related to sexual misconduct. More information is available on our website at: <http://www.uas.alaska.edu/policies/titleix.html>

*-Lori Klein, Campus Conduct Administrator*



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# — Goodness Gracious, Flambéed Bananas! —

**BY ALEXA CHERRY**

*For the UAS Whalesong*

A couple of weeks ago, I was taken by none other than the lovely editor of this paper to go check out a “new” restaurant in town. The reason I put “new” in quotes is because the restaurant isn’t new, as such. Rather than being a completely new company, in a completely new establishment, they’re a new take on an old idea. The restaurant I’m speaking of, as you’ve probably guessed, is (or rather, was) the Waffle Co. However, the previous owners sold it and the new owners wanted to go for a more comprehensive menu schematic, as well as a new look overall. So they got a new menu, name, and paint job. I got to go check it out on Feb. 11, the day GonZo officially opened for business as a supposedly “new and improved” establishment.

It might be difficult to explain the change when I lack “before” pictures, but since it was one of the only restaurants within walking distance of campus, I think most of you will have been there at least once before and you’ll know what I’m talking about. Simply put, when it was just a waffle house, there was a fairly bland paint job (yellow, I think, if memory serves) and a neatly practical air. They served waffles, had plastic water cups, and brought a jug of syrup over with your order. There were also some cool artistic touches. One corner was decorated with fun, if somewhat cheap-looking, plastic star-shaped string lights. The walls were plastered in local photography and artwork that was always changing to create a new environment. I liked it, but I could never see myself spending a lot of time there; it was a place where I came to eat and then left, rather than being a place where I came to eat and study for hours.

Bearing these things in mind, I walked into GonZo not sure what to expect.

The first thing I noticed was that the walls were a different color or rather, a patchwork of them. The main dining area was painted what appeared to be a light blue (though the lighting where I was sitting was a bit odd, so I could be wrong), while less prominent walls at the end of the establishment were a vivid royal blue. What really struck me, however, was the intense red that composed the wall behind the order counter and the alcove where the aforementioned star lights used to hang. This is partly because red is my favorite color, and partly because the second thing I noticed was that the star lights were gone. I was unsure whether to be offended about this then, and I’m still contemplating it now. Sure, they were cheesy, but I liked them.

Another big change environment-wise was that they took the seating out of the area near the front door and threw in a comfortable couch, a vivid neon lamp, and (for reasons as yet unexplained) some decorative skeletons. The skeletons seem intended to promote some manner of hipster-esque atmosphere, in kind with their new cups for water. If you’ve ever wanted to drink fruit-infused H<sub>2</sub>O out of a glass Mason jar mug, now you know where to go to make that dream a reality. I like the mugs—though they hover on the edge of “unique and nifty” and “pretentious café aspirations”—but I’m not sure what to think about the skeletons. Why are they there? What do they want from us? Are they the remains of past employees who just weren’t perky enough, posted as a warning to the people who work there now? Things to think about. They do play the same kind of music, for any of you that might have been wondering.

And now, to the part of the article you’ve all been waiting for: the food. During the management change, some of the main concerns among my peers and I were that GonZo would stop serving waffles and that their food would become overpriced. Rejoice! Waffles are still an option! However, it is worth noting that the cheapest waffle is \$7 (what used to be roughly the regular price), while most of them now run around \$9. The waffle I purchased—known as the “Spunky Monkey”—was one of the latter and I can tell you that for \$9, they delivered the goods! Not as many goods as one might expect at a full-fledged restaurant that serves side dishes and the like, but at the Waffle Co. you would order a \$7 waffle and that’s what you would get: a waffle with some fruit and enough whipped cream to clog your arteries—not that I ever complained about that—and some syrup. For \$9 at GonZo, I got a waffle neatly cut into its respective quarters, artfully arranged and decorated with tufts of whipped cream, topped by an entire flambéed banana cut in half lengthwise, dominating my plate. To explain



**Whalesong reporter, Alexa Cherry, ventures to the newly opened café GonZo to scope out the place since its recent remodeling and try out one of the new gourmet waffles. The waffle featured above is a scrumptious creation known as the Spunky Monkey!**  
(Photograph by Alexa Cherry)

what flambéing is would take up more of this article than I care to spend on the subject, but know that it is infinitely superior to a regular banana, and I was suitably impressed!

In summary, GonZo shows much promise for the future. The quality of the establishment has not dropped, and I think I prefer the new environment to the old one. The one complaint I might have is that when we initially ordered our food and coffee, they failed to record my request for a Spunky Monkey. Because of this, the waffle wasn’t put on the receipt and we—unaware of this mistake—sat waiting for them to bring it out to us for a half-hour. While this is a somewhat unprofessional error to make on opening day, I am willing to lay it aside, since I’m sure it wasn’t intentional. This is a review, however, so I feel I’ve got to tell you about the good and the bad. Overall, it was a good dining experience—8 out of 10, and I would definitely return! Though it’s true that I’m somewhat of a captive audience, so I don’t have much in the way of options.

If you haven’t checked it out yet but are interested, they’re open until 8 p.m. on weekdays—except for on Tuesday, when they are closed—and until 10 p.m. on weekends. It’s also worth giving their Facebook page, GonZo AK, a look and a like! They have pictures of the establishment, as well as the foods and beverages they serve, so you can get an idea of what you want to order before you ever set foot in the door.

Until then, I’ll see you on the flip side!



# Did you hear about the UAS Wellness Fair?

**BY BECKY IVERSON**

*For the UAS Whalesong*

Are you looking for ways to improve your physical, social, mental and emotional wellness? Then stop on by the UAS Wellness Fair on Wednesday, Mar. 4, 11 a.m.-1 p.m. at the Lakeside Grill (Upper Level Maurant). Several Juneau Community organizations will be represented at the Wellness Fair, including the newly formed UAS Hiking Club! Other organizations participating include Juneau Alliance for Mental Health (JAM-HI), National Council on Alcoholism and Drug Dependence (NCADD), AWARE, Juneau Public Health Center, and National Council on Mental Illness (NAMI), just to name a few.

Community agencies and organizations will be highlighting important health and wellness related topics such as tobacco prevention, alcohol treatment, healthy sexuality and relationships, immunizations, contraception, STDs, mental illness awareness and support, and much more.

Many agencies bring interesting brochures, handouts, trinkets, and fun freebies too. Come check it out and you might even win a prize!

Hope to see you there!

## INTERESTED IN ADVERTISING?

We have a range of options for you to choose from to advertise your events and businesses. Learn more about opportunities for ad placement in the Whalesong online:

[www.uas.alaska.edu/juneau/activities/whalesong/](http://www.uas.alaska.edu/juneau/activities/whalesong/)

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# Student Featured Art



Mostapha Beya's "Dancing with Henri," in tribute to the French artist, Henri Matisse. The medium is oil on canvas.  
(Photograph of the painting provided by Mostapha Beya)



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# — Treat Yo Self —

**BY ALEXA CHERRY**

*For the UAS Whalesong*

I don't watch the show *Parks and Recreation*, but there is a series of screencaps I continually see from it online where two of the characters are flouncing about yelling, "TREAT YO SELF." I assume they're yelling, anyway. It's difficult to tell when the subtitles are always in caps. The premise of this argument seems to be that life is too short to spend struggling through each day. Instead, you should "treat yo self" to one thing every day, because you work hard and you deserve it.

Now, I am all for this mindset, but it's difficult to achieve in college. We are not full-time parks and rec employees with steady incomes; we are college students, and as such we cannot afford to stop, drop cash, and purchase things to "treat ourselves" just because we feel we've worked hard or had a bad day and we deserve it. Even if you think you can afford it, you probably can't. I find this is a good rule to live by that results in me having more grocery money at the end of the week.

Alright, now that I've been the Debbiest of Downers, let me return to this most wise of adages. You do need to treat yourself, but it doesn't have to be by spending money! Self-care is one of the most important parts of daily life, not to mention young adulthood, and it's something that is really frequently overlooked in favor of a myriad of things that get in the way: social activities, late-night studying, early-morning studying, work, etc. There are some weeks when everything else in your life seems more important than you, and that's just not the case.

You're in college to better yourself, not wear yourself to a harried frazzle of a human that can recite entire textbooks verbatim. So settle down and let me tell you about some low-key, inexpensive college ways to "treat yo self."

In these chillier winter months, one thing that's great to do is have a long, hot shower. Make it an impractical shower; I mean, get yourself clean, but also use your nicest shower gel. Use shower scrub, if you have it. Afterwards, apply half a bottle of lotion to your person and take your sweet time putting it on. Boys, I don't know if you go in for this. If you do, fantastic! If not, do whatever the male equivalent of lotion is. I don't know, take your time shaving or something. Anyway, after your shower you'll be warm and toasty, and you'll smell fabulous. If that doesn't make you feel better, I don't know what will.

Something else important is to make sure you take care of yourself medically. If you hurt somewhere, if you're really sick, make an appointment to see the nurse. If the nurse can't help you, go see a doctor. If your teeth are hurting, make a dentist appointment. This is something I'm learning to do, so I encourage you guys to follow in my footsteps! Because if there's one thing I've learned in past months, you can't just ignore a medical problem until it goes away, because it probably won't. Get it looked at, you'll be better off for it. And sometimes you don't even have to make a doctor's appointment. For example, taking simple steps like drinking a lot more water, cutting down on caffeine (cutting it out entirely is an impractical quest in college), and taking vitamins will help you out a lot! If you just take Vitamin D, you'll start feeling better. Even when the sun comes out here, we are

literally too far from it (considering the rotation of the earth) to get any of its nice solar benefits, like warmth or vitamins.

Finally, I think that tidying up your environment is another great way to treat yourself. I'll be the first to admit that I am not a clean person when I'm at home. I've been sleeping in a beanbag lately because I did all my laundry recently and it is currently compromising my bed, waiting to be folded. But once it's folded and put away and I've tidied the rest of my room, I know for a fact that I will be a much happier person. While I am mostly fine living in a chaotic environment (to a point), when everything is clean and I can actually see my carpet, there's a not-inconsiderable part of me that sighs in relief and feels at one with the universe. It's a lot easier for me to focus on homework because I don't have to clear a space at my desk before I sit down, I feel better waking up in the morning because I don't have to navigate piles of stuff on my floor, and I'm less stressed because I can find important work, school, and internship documents when I need them instead of rooting through piles of papers that I have "neatly" stacked around the room. Trust me, cleaning is a painful process while it lasts, but once it's complete you will be much happier with yourself and with life as a whole.

And those are only three ways you can treat yourself on a college budget! Feel free to think of other things you do to cheer yourself up or calm yourself down. These are two things that I imagine are restricted mostly to my feminine audience, but I find that painting my nails and straightening my hair are other relaxing activities that make me feel better about the universe. If you think of any, feel free to send them in, and maybe I'll do a follow-up article with your suggestions!

# — Literary Traditions: Children's Literature —

**BY DANIEL PISCOYA**

*For the UAS Whalesong*

While I did not have the chance to attend what was no doubt an excellent class by Professor Nina Chordas on this exact same topic, I will try to do the subject justice by addressing it through the lens of one of J.R.R. Tolkien's most prominent essays—one which I lightly referenced in a previous article, "Literary Traditions: Eucatastrophe"—"On Fairy Stories."

Tolkien, of course, is well known for writing *The Hobbit*, which is widely regarded as a children's story, and has recently been transformed into three feature films by director Peter Jackson. Legend has it that Tolkien, who was a professor at Oxford, was grading essays one evening when he came across a student who had mistakenly left a blank page. Extremely bored at the time, he apparently nearly gave the student an A for his error, and proceeded to write, in the spur of the moment, the famous first sentence of *The Hobbit*: "Once, in a hole in the ground, there lived a hobbit." He then stared at it and wondered what on earth a hobbit was, which sparked a lifetime's work of world-building, ultimately culminating in *The Lord of the Rings* and *The Silmarillion*.

In his essay "On Fairy Stories", which he wrote just as he was beginning to write *The Hobbit* and *The Lord of the Rings*, Tolkien unfolds why it is that he takes fairy stories like *The*

*Hobbit* so seriously, and what they mean for children.

Now, the first question to ask about any kind of literature is what makes it different from any other kind of literature. Children's literature is often thought of as very different. For most, children's literature is made up of fairy stories and other 'childish things.' For Tolkien, however, fairy stories were never necessarily connected with children. He observes:

"Among those who still have enough wisdom not to think fairy stories pernicious, the common opinion seems to be that there is a natural connexion between the minds of children and fairy stories. I think this is an error...most often made by those who...tend to think of children as a special kind of creature...rather than a normal, if immature, members of a particular family, and of the human family at large...Children as a class...neither like fairy stories more, nor understand them better than adults do."

While at first this seems to be a surprising thought, it makes sense considering what Tolkien worked on in his life, and what he fought against.

It is often thought that Tolkien first conceived of Middle-earth as a method of entertainment for his children—to which, I might add, he was an excellent father—but this is not fully the case. While many of his stories did begin that way, like *Roverandom*, the world of *The Lord of the Rings*, as I have related above, began as an equally academic pursuit. Tolkien, in

fleshing out the tales of Middle-earth, wrote something that was both children's literature and synthetic English mythology—the kind of which had been missing from England for a thousand years. The way in which *The Hobbit* can be understood as both children's story and academic text is emblematic not only of Tolkien's genius, but also of children's stories and academic texts: "if fairy story is a kind worth reading at all it is worthy to be written for and read by adults."

This understanding also coincides with Tolkien's notorious dislike of industry and the effects that it has on society. "Let us not divide the human race," he says, referencing H.G. Wells' *The Time Machine*, "into Eloi and Morlocks: pretty children—'elves' as the eighteenth century often idiotically called them—with their fairy tales (carefully pruned), and the dark Morlocks tending their machines." This remark is pointed; the rise of industry in many ways exaggerated the gulf between child and adult, especially with the introduction of public schooling. Rather than over-adapt books for children—a sort of condescension—he says that, "their books like their clothes should allow for growth, and their books at any rate should encourage it."

In the end, it seems to me that the difference between children's literature and other literature is just the label; the distinction is a false dichotomy. This world deserves a better class of theorist...and we're gonna give it to them.

February 23 - March 8, 2015

UAS WHALESONG

# TAKING THE PLUNGE

**BY JASMINE MATTSON-WOLFF**

*For the UAS Whalesong*

The Polar Plunge is probably one of the most well-known events that happens worldwide annually. Most of the time it is associated with beginning a new year or jumping for a charity fund-raising event. This event has been a tradition at UAS specifically since 1998. For this year's Polar Plunge, the campus was raising funds and awareness for The Glory Hole. The Glory Hole is a homeless shelter and soup kitchen located here in downtown Juneau. Unfortunately, they just went through a detrimental event; about two months ago a broken pipe ended up flooding the facility. They were just able to reopen on Feb. 5. What's really awesome though, is what came about after this terrible event. Thanks to the university's efforts, the grand total raised for The Glory Hole was \$2,696.25! The donations to get those 50 brave souls jumping into the icy Auke Bay water were raised by 75 students, staff, faculty, and community members. The School of Management team (Barb Dagata & Charla Brown) raised the most out of any group with a total of \$750! It sure is amazing to see how much we can do when we come together and work toward a good cause.

Everyone gathered at Auke Bay on Feb. 7 for the 17<sup>th</sup> Annual Polar Plunge. There ended up being 50 jumpers and 75 onlookers in attendance. The temperature was pretty chilly and there were windy conditions in Juneau that day. The high temperatures for the Plunge were in the teens, and with the wind chill people were reporting that it felt like it was below zero! I was in carving class that day and I have to say just walking from the Whitehead Building on campus to the cafeteria—it was cold as heck! I couldn't imagine jumping into the water on such a cold day. It was kind of funny in a way though, in comparison to that weekend we've actually had a rather warm winter; the Polar Plunge took place during one of the rare spells where we actually had cold, winter weather conditions!



Charla Brown and Barb Dagata enthusiastically represented the UAS School of Management at this year's Plunge.

(Photo by Barb Dagata)



UAS students, Rye Sperl and Andre Bunton, take the plunge off of the Auke Bay docks and into the freezing water!

(Photo by Dave Klein)



# FOR THE GLORY HOLE!

Due to the cold weather that we have been facing every now and then, and the conditions that the Polar Plunge participants jumped with, we figured we would throw in a few notes on winter weather safety, most notably regarding hypothermia. Hypothermia is a risk even when you're not purposely jumping into cold water. It can also occur when you spend long periods of time in cold weather. Knowing what hypothermia looks like and how to address it can be life-saving info for Alaskans. Some of the signs of hypothermia include shivering, numbness, glassy stare, apathy, weakness, impaired judgment, incoherent speech, or loss of consciousness. If you think you or someone you know is suffering from hypothermia what should you do? Get the person to a warm place, seek medical help, remove wet clothing, and dry them off. Warm them slowly, focusing on the trunk/abdomen first. Monitor breathing and circulation, and administer CPR if necessary. Do not warm the person too quickly by exposing them to fire or immersing them in warm water, as this may result in heart arrhythmia. Do not warm the feet and hands before the person's core, because this may result in shock.

With that I would like you to think about the fact that people often forget kindness is free. Also, meditate on the word compassion—one possible definition for that which I've found is as follows: a deep awareness of the suffering of another, coupled with the wish to relieve it.



UAS Student Government representatives leaped into the icy bay for a good cause—and even Kermit the Frog got in on the action!

(Photo by Dave Klein)



UAS student, Andre Bunton, quickly emerges from the frigid Auke Bay water.  
(Photo by Lori Klein)



Barb Dagata and Charla Brown are super happy about doing the plunge for such a great cause!

(Photo by Dave Klein)



# — Listening to *Shiver Twins* —

**BY JASMINE MATTSON-WOLFF**

*For the UAS Whalesong*

Southeast Alaska never ceases to amaze me in how it continuously proves how small of a world we actually live in. It's fun in a sense though, because you can always be certain that you don't know everything and there are always new surprises around the bend waiting for you. It's crazy to me that I can live in Juneau for two years, come through this town my whole life, and still there is always some super cool band, restaurant, event, class, etc. that I don't know about until I find them in the most unlikely places. Like the band, *Shiver Twins*! I didn't even know about them really until this last month. But on the flip side, I know people who are good friends with all of the band members—people who dated them and people who are birthday buddies with them.

The *Shiver Twins* are originally from Juneau and just moved down to Seattle, Washington in October 2014. Punk/garage rock is the general genre of their music. Their sound is pretty upbeat and the lyrics speak clearly, allowing you as the listener to accurately paint a picture as to what the band is conveying through their music. The band has a pretty rough grit to it and keys into the garage rock aspect of music with an iron fist. Don't let this cause you to shy away from checking them out though! I wasn't super sure about it when I was listening to my first song by them, but then after another time or two, I was hooked! Their music still varies a bit from song to song, and it will be interesting to hear what new stuff the band is coming out with.



The album artwork from *Shiver Twin's* new EP "19, Again" which will be available on iTunes, Bandcamp & Spotify on Mar. 3, 2015.

(Photograph provided by the *Shiver Twin's* JR Rosales)

I feel like *Shiver Twins* grew on me as I listened to their music and learned more about the band, like how they came up with their name! JR (*ST's* drummer) and Eric (*ST's*

guitarist/vocalist) were out at Squire's drinking and decided to take a smoke break. While they were out on this smoke break, they decided they needed to go on a bathroom break too. As they were both using the potty, a cold wind came through the bathroom and JR told Eric, "Oh, I just shivered."

Eric replied, "Yeah, me too. Hey, we are shiver twins!"

To which JR said, "Hey, that could be a good name for a band someday." Thus *Shiver Twins* was born in the summer of 2013! These guys are all great friends. They have good chemistry, communication, and big hopes for their future in the music industry. Knowing this stuff opens up a connection to the band in a way through more than just music.

So where should you go to check these guys out? Well, they have a new EP album being released on Mar. 3 titled "19, Again." Keep your eye out for it! You can follow them on Facebook ([www.facebook.com/shivertwinmusic](http://www.facebook.com/shivertwinmusic)), SoundCloud ([soundcloud.com/shivertwinmusic](http://soundcloud.com/shivertwinmusic)), Twitter (<https://twitter.com/shivertwinz>), and YouTube (<https://www.youtube.com/user/shivertwins>)! Check them out, listen to their music, and support this local Juneau-grown band. It will definitely be worth your time. I am excited to watch the *Shiver Twins* grow and progress in their musical pursuits. They are hoping to tour the west coast starting this summer, but before they can do that they need to get grounded and earn some money. Until then, they will continue catering to their audience in the Seattle area! The guys say that everything is worth it though, whether they are playing for a room of 100+ or just for the bartender. They are just happy sharing their music with people and enjoying life as they know it.

# — The Enigma of Anderson Building —

**BY ALEXA CHERRY**

*For the UAS Whalesong*

Some of you may know that in addition to writing articles for this most illustrious of papers, I also work behind the scenes in the admissions office. As a student job, this can be best summarized as a steady repetition of licking stamps, sending e-mails, and giving campus tours; phone calls are also known to be involved, but that's not the part of the job I'm here to talk about today. Campus tours are what I want to mention, and one specific part of the tour at that. When I'm done showing the prospective students the main part of campus, I always ask if they want to go anywhere else, and I always suggest the Anderson building if they are any kind of science student.

Now, here's the reason: very few new students who come to UAS know where the Anderson building is. For those of you who don't even know what it is, it's an off-campus building on the main road leading up to UAS where all lab science classes have their labs. The thing is, however, it's not very clearly labeled (if at all—I haven't been there in a while, so my memory is foggy), and all directions on how to get there are remarkably vague. The rule among science professors seems to be that if you can figure out how to get to Anderson, you are worthy of continuing on

in their class; if not, you may as well drop out now because only the "Chosen Ones" may attain the majestic science degree. This is, of course, only my interpretation of what I suspect to be their thought process, gleaned from my limited interaction with science professors at UAS.

This is why, as a tour guide, I show every possible student I can where this building is. Otherwise, they are going to be seated in their first lab class and hear a confusing myriad of detailed but useless directions and descriptions, like "It's the brown building with the stairs at that sharp bend in the road, next to the old NOAA building," or even "Uh, it's right down on the water?" I suppose this is easy enough to find if you have a car, but getting there from campus is another matter entirely. The first couple times I went there involved walking down the highway from housing, which took a solid 25 minutes; otherwise, our only other option was the ambiguous "shortcut" that it is difficult to describe. You know the walkway next to the totem pole across from Soboleff building? The one that goes up, then past the furthest reaches of the UAS parking lot until you reach the maintenance building on the highway? Follow that until you get to said highway, then turn right. Walk until you see a large brown building with stairs across the street on your left. That's Anderson building. Good luck.

I hope you see how that can be confusing. Unless you have

friends in the science class with you who already know where it is, I personally have found that Anderson is an enigma wrapped in a mystery that some people find difficult to believe exists. And while it's true that Anderson building is marked on the official UAS campus map, that thing is not very detailed, and therefore still confusing.

The point of this article, however, is not to complain. Rather, it is simply to point out that something is wrong here—such an important building should not be so difficult to find—and suggest that solutions be proposed to remedy this issue. A more prominent sign, perhaps? Something that can be seen from the road, so as not to limit the building description to "it's brown, large, and has stairs." Maybe even a sign on the "shortcut," which is now the main route for students living at the freshman residence hall.

As a student, this is something I've noticed that myself and other students have difficulty with, so I thought I would mention it and see if anyone agreed with me or took notice of the same issue. I don't know if anything will ever be done about it, but I feel satisfied now that I've put my thoughts on the matter out in a public forum. So stay safe out there, and remember to look both ways before you cross the street—that corner where Anderson is located is very sharp.



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# — Madness and Music —

BY DANIEL PISCOYA

*For the UAS Whalesong*

Once, when trying to pin down the difference between poets and logicians, a wise man by the name of G.K. Chesterton remarked that “the poet only asks to get his head into the heavens; it is the logician who seeks to get the heavens into his head.” Chesterton, who would probably have characterized himself among both groups with a little bit of a leaning toward the poets, qualified this distinction with a warning: “it is his [the logician’s] head that splits.”

Now, this statement is no insult to logicians, mathematicians, scientists, accountants, or any people or students of the sort. Rather, what Chesterton is setting up is a critique of those who are simply logicians, mathematicians, scientists, accountants, or students of the sort. He speaks here, not necessarily of logic or math, but of a certain kind of mindset that can be found within those fields. What he is saying is that when we stress too much on always having concrete, comprehensive answers in life, we will inevitably go mad. We cannot know everything, and, if we try, we deserve a medal and a straight-jacket to pin it on.

This warning particularly applies to universities and might be particularly apt as we approach mid-terms this semester. Whatever your major, to heap studying atop studying without end both adds stress and decreases aptitude. The word “study”, after all, comes from the Latin verb “studere,” which means “to direct one’s zeal towards”, or “to be eager for.” The word carries a connotation of pursuit which is not necessarily remembered in our contemporary sense. This older sense of the word reminds us of the level of exertion it can be, and of the tendency towards the demand for concrete, comprehensive answers it can bring with it.

Speaking from personal experience, the level of stress, both physical and mental, that school can levy can be difficult to deal with. It can be hard to be anything but a logician, even in creative writing class. It can be hard to be anything but a mathematician, even in music class. Spring semester of last year, for me, was one of the most



**My advice to the general public is to find some kind of music that will help us to avoid splitting our heads.**

(Photograph of John St. Helier Lander’s, *Boy with a Tin Whistle Imitating a Bird in a Cage*, provided through Wikimedia Commons).

stressful semesters I have ever had. I became so bogged down in theory, books, and essays that, one evening, I did something rash; something that actually helped me keep my sanity and finish the semester. I bought a tin whistle.

Tin whistles were just something I had caught glimpses of on the internet. They are durable, sweet-sounding fipple-flutes that are easier to play than a recorder, but are generally nicer. I had little experience with recorders back in middle school, and I wanted something I could play. Quality tin whistles are cheap—under \$20 with shipping on most sites. When I got mine, I found that I could play most songs I knew by ear, and that the whistle sounded good as well. Moreover, there was a certain calming quality to learning how to play. One of the things I notice even now about playing it is that I cannot concentrate and play well at the same time. When I concentrate on what I am playing, I tend to overthink the whole thing and mess up. It’s the same thing with keeping time. I can’t concentrate on keeping time—I overthink it and then mess up. Playing the tin whistle is something that you just have to do—overthinking is not allowed.

In a way, this simple, indeterminate nature of the tin whistle is what saved my sanity. It was and still is a way for me to, instead of getting the heavens into my head, to get my head into the heavens. Music and instruments: they forever deny us mastery over them and, instead, present us with something that is incomplete, sometimes ugly, and yet still inviting. While I can claim to know a song or two on my whistle, I am still learning, and I still make mistakes. My playing is in-concrete, still un-comprehensive—the exact opposite of an exact science. But in this way, it is a lot more reflective of life.

In that spirit, I don’t know if we’ll ever parse out the difference between poets and logicians. I’d like to think that they are all forced to trade places now and then. In fact, I’d encourage it. My advice to the general public is to find some kind of music—whether it is actual music, or poetry, art, religion, etc.—that will help us to avoid splitting our heads.

## DO YOU WANT TO WRITE FOR THE WHALESONG?

Send your articles to us at [whalesong@uas.alaska.edu](mailto:whalesong@uas.alaska.edu) and you could be published in the next issue of the school’s newspaper!



# — A Far Cry from Homework —

**BY ALEXA CHERRY**

*For the UAS Whalesong*

I have not spent very much time playing video games recently, due to abandoning my consoles in a harried attempt to catch up on my academic and life responsibilities—after all, that’s what I’m here for. However, for some weeks previous I have been laboring away at what is quickly becoming one of my favorite games of all time, *Far Cry 4*.

This is a first-person shooter (FPS) by Ubisoft, and I will be the first to admit that FPS games are not my strong point. However, I play games for the story, not the play style, and *Far Cry 4* has a very strong story that stands alone (so you don’t have to play the previous 3 in order to understand it). You play as Ajay Ghale, a young American man visiting a place called Kyrat in Nepal for reasons undisclosed. Ten minutes into the country, you’re abducted by a crazy man in a pink suit who turns out to be Pagan Min, the self-proclaimed despot of Kyrat with a hatred for terrorists. These self-same terrorists abduct you in their turn from Min’s castle, and turn out to be not terrorists (which you could have guessed after you saw Min stab a man in the shoulder with a tuning fork for texting at the table) but rather resistance fighters. It turns out that your father, Mohan Ghale, founded a group of rebels called the Golden Path, and this group is now being run by two very attractive people with very different visions for Kyrat. For this reason, *Far Cry 4* has been referred to as an FPS dating simulator, since you are constantly having to

choose whether to side with Amita, who wants Kyrat to become a drug state in order to pay for schools, medical supplies, etc. or with Sabal, who is constantly comparing you to your father and wants to maintain the traditional values of Kyrat, like to the point where women have no rights.

While you run about shooting people and trying to decide which of these is the less terrible option, you find yourself with other problems to deal with. It’s worth mentioning that this is a very difficult game, and you will die a lot. The AI is well-constructed, and enemies rarely have set patrol patterns. I have been walking along the side of the road and been purposefully run over by Min’s soldiers in their stupid red jeep. But what you really have to watch out for is the wildlife.

Imagine this scenario in your head. I’m sneaking up on an enemy base, bow-and-arrow in hand, stealth mode fully engaged. I am the night, I am the shadows, I am the Nepalese version of Batman. I get out my camera so that I can scope the base from where I crouch behind a waist-length wall. As I scan the area, I hear a small, inquisitive hyena-esque cackle from nearby. Full of dread, I lower my camera and turn around. Not five feet away, a honey badger stares at me.

Now, I don’t know the extent of your knowledge about honey badgers, but here’s something to bear in mind: these things tear into beehives and contentedly devour their contents while the entire hive swarms and stings them. If ever an animal had zero fucks to give, it is the honey badger. *Far Cry 4* recognizes this, and chooses to accurately depict their behavior and strength in-game.

This story ends with the entire base abruptly becoming alerted to my presence as I scream and flail wildly, an angry honey badger (they’re always angry) attached to my arm by the teeth and claws. By the time I finally manage to fling it off, people are coming at me with shotguns and grenade launchers. As I tear off down the hill, seeking shelter or a river to dive into or a cliff to jump off of, I hear further screaming and shooting behind me. Someone at the base calls for reinforcements. My health bar is flashing, informing me that if I so much as trip at this point I will die. And still I hear the cackling of the honey badger on the air, in between gunshots, intermingled with the screams of Min’s soldiers as it sends them to a gory, badger-y death.

Bear in mind that this is only one of many traumatizing wildlife encounters I have had in this game, and that you will have if you purchase it. It’s fantastic and seems fairly realistic, and on top of all that the quality is astounding (I’ve never seen such realistically rendering video game people in my entire life) and it runs smoothly. So if you, too, seek hours of entertainment and homework procrastination, I suggest you borrow or order it ASAP. Then you should tell me you play it, so that we can sit at the cafeteria and swap wildlife encounter stories. Have you ever attacked a bear with a flamethrower, only to run out of fuel as soon as you make it mad and then had to run for your life through an increasingly flaming forest while an angry bear on fire pursues you?

Don’t worry. You will.

Want to read more?  
Find previous issues of the  
Whalesong online at:  
[www.uas.alaska.edu/juneau/activities/whalesong/](http://www.uas.alaska.edu/juneau/activities/whalesong/)

# CAMPUS CALENDAR

## OFF CAMPUS

MONDAY, FEB. 23

**Taku Toastmasters Club**, 12:05 p.m., Federal Building. Improve your public speaking skills in a supportive environment. Newcomers welcome! Meetings are held in Room 541 of the Federal Building. For more information, contact Velja at 907-321-4988.

**Tlingit Language Learner's Group**, 6 p.m., Downtown Juneau Public Library. Interested in learning the Tlingit language? This group, run by Tlingit language learners, is free and open to everyone in the community, regardless of language experience. We meet Mondays at the downtown Juneau Public Library from 6-7 p.m. For more information, email [tlingitlearners@gmail.com](mailto:tlingitlearners@gmail.com).

TUESDAY, FEB. 24

**Poems in Place Workshop**, 6:30 p.m.,

Juneau Downtown Library. Facilitated by local writers Jonas Lamb and Emily Wall. The event will include a short presentation of the project and how to submit, a guided writing exercise, and an open mic. Participants are encouraged to bring favorite poems by Alaskans (to read or nominate) and writing materials. For more information email Emily Wall: [emily.wall@uas.alaska.edu](mailto:emily.wall@uas.alaska.edu).

WEDNESDAY, FEB. 25

**Write For Your Life**, 10 a.m., Mendenhall Valley Library. The "Write For Your Life" group meets from 10-11 a.m. every Wednesday to share journal entries, memoir, letters, or poetry. For more information, contact Dixie at 907-789-2068.

THURSDAY, FEB. 26

**Community Gaming Night**, 5:30 p.m., Udder Culture. Shouldn't Juneau have a community gaming group? Of course! Now we do! This is an open video game group that gets together every week at Udder Culture.

We play a variety of video games and are open to playing on any platform (Wii, PS3, PS4, Xbox360, Xbox One, etc.). Be sure to stop by and enjoy great food and company at the Udder Culture as well! All ages are welcome! (If you are a minor you will need to get a parent's permission to play, because we play a lot of games rated "M") Email Greg Frank for more information at [greg.r.frank@gmail.com](mailto:greg.r.frank@gmail.com).

FRIDAY, FEB. 27

**Organ Concert**, 12 p.m., State Office Building Atrium. Concerts on the Kimball Theatre Organ at the State Office Building take place most Fridays during the noon hour.

**Meet the Author & Book Signing**, 2 p.m., Centennial Hall Main Lobby. The featured guest author is Marissa Meyer an award winning young adult novelist. Her science fiction fantasy *The Lunar Chronicles* began with *Cinder*, the first book in the four-part series. *Cinder* received the YALSA Best

Fiction for Young Adults in 2012 and the Charlotte Award in 2014. Twenty of Juneau's finest local authors and illustrators will also be participating in this amazing book signing event. Books will be available for purchase during the Meet the Author and Book Signing Event. For more information about this event contact Julie Niederhauser at [julie.niederhauser@alaska.gov](mailto:julie.niederhauser@alaska.gov) or 465-2916.

**Music: Dan Hopson Classical Guitar LIVE**, 7 p.m., the Gold Room at the Baranof Hotel. For more information, call 907-586-2660.

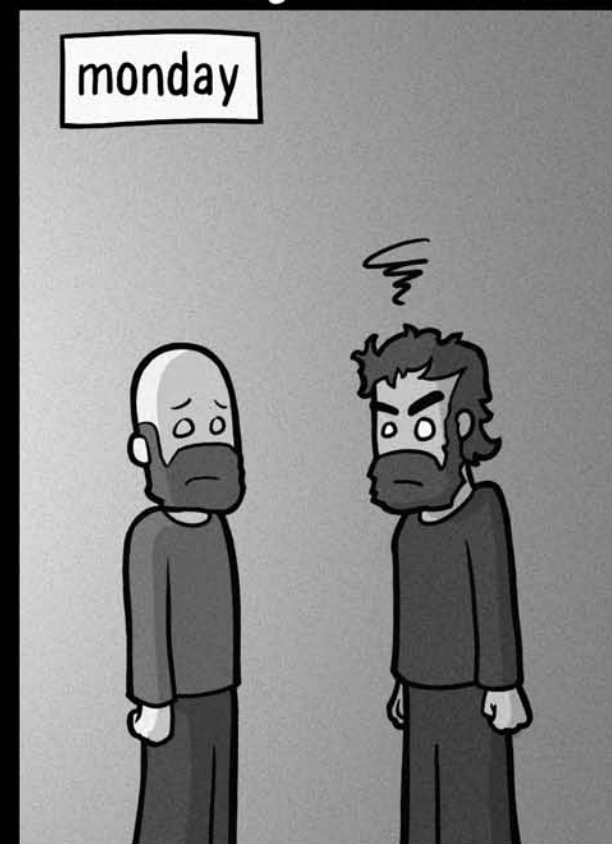
**Painting pARTy "Poppy,"** 7 p.m., Louise Miller Fine Art Studio. Come with your friends or meet new ones, as we paint this Georgia O'Keeffe inspired Poppy. All painting supplies, brushes, paints, and a canvas will be provided. Pre-registration required, space is limited. Contact Louise Miller at 789-3546 or [louisemillerfineart@gmail.com](mailto:louisemillerfineart@gmail.com) for more information.

## Alaska Robotics



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# CAMPUS CALENDAR

## ON CAMPUS

### MONDAY, FEB. 23

**Summer 2015 Registration Begins,** All Day, UAS. Check out the Summer 2015 class schedule to see if there are any classes being offered that you may need or want to take! For more information send an email to [registrar@uas.alaska.edu](mailto:registrar@uas.alaska.edu) or call 796-6255.

**Open Gym: Dodgeball,** 7 p.m., Recreation Center. Ready to flash-back to grade school? Head over to drop-in dodgeball. It's fast, it's fun, and it's at the REC. For more information send an email to [rec\\_center@uas.alaska.edu](mailto:rec_center@uas.alaska.edu) or call the REC Center staff at 796-6100.

**Zumba,** 7 p.m., Recreation Center. Party yourself into shape at the REC! Feel the music, let loose, and dance the pounds and inches off! No experience is necessary. For more information send an email to [rec\\_center@uas.alaska.edu](mailto:rec_center@uas.alaska.edu) or call the REC Center staff at 796-6544.

### TUESDAY, FEB. 24

**Student Government Spring 2015 Meetings,** 8:30 a.m., Glacier View Room. Get Involved! Got questions regarding UAS? Come check out a Student Government Meeting. UAS Student Government, the official student government of the University of Alaska Southeast, is responsible for representing student interests to the college administration and for facilitating the organization of a broad range of student committees that work to address issues and concerns and promote services that enhance students' experience at UAS. A significant responsibility of the UAS Student Government is to initiate and act upon legislation including proposals to appropriate USUAS-JC Funds as well as serving on at least two USUAS-JC standing committees. For more information send an email to [jypres@uas.alaska.edu](mailto:jypres@uas.alaska.edu).

**Open Gym: Basketball,** 7 p.m., Recreation Center. Join your friends or make friends playing basketball at the REC. All skill

levels welcome! For more information send an email to [rec\\_center@uas.alaska.edu](mailto:rec_center@uas.alaska.edu) or call the REC Center staff at 796-6544.

### WEDNESDAY, FEB. 25

**Spring Travelogue Series,** 1 p.m., Egan Classroom Wing. Learn more about the Exchange & Study Abroad opportunities at UAS, both national and international! For more information send an email to [exchanges@uas.alaska.edu](mailto:exchanges@uas.alaska.edu).

**Open Gym: Volleyball,** 7 p.m., Recreation Center. Join your friends or make friends playing volleyball at the REC. All skill levels welcome! For more information send an email to [rec\\_center@uas.alaska.edu](mailto:rec_center@uas.alaska.edu) or call the REC Center staff at 796-6544.

**Zumba,** 7 p.m., Recreation Center. Party yourself into shape at the REC! Feel the music, let loose, and dance the pounds and inches off! No experience is necessary. For more information send an email to [rec\\_center@uas.alaska.edu](mailto:rec_center@uas.alaska.edu) or call the REC Center staff at 796-6544.

### THURSDAY, FEB. 26

**Open Gym: Soccer,** 7 p.m., Recreation Center. Join your friends or make friends playing soccer at the REC. A fast paced, fun sport. All skill levels welcome! For more information send an email to [rec\\_center@uas.alaska.edu](mailto:rec_center@uas.alaska.edu) or call the REC Center staff at 796-6544.

**Circuit Training,** 7 p.m., Recreation Center. Join us for full body conditioning or resistance training using high-intensity aerobics. We'll target strength building and muscular endurance. An exercise "circuit" is one completion of all prescribed exercises in the program. When one circuit is complete, one begins the first exercise again for the next circuit. For more information send an email to [rec\\_center@uas.alaska.edu](mailto:rec_center@uas.alaska.edu) or call the REC Center staff at 796-6544.

### FRIDAY, FEB. 27

**Sound+Motion,** 7 p.m., Egan Lecture Hall. JUMP Society Winter Film Festival. The Juneau Underground Motion Picture

Society shares a collection of locally made short films. For more information send an email to [katie.bausler@uas.alaska.edu](mailto:katie.bausler@uas.alaska.edu) or call 796-6530.

### SATURDAY, FEB. 28

**2015 February Saturday Sessions,** 2 p.m., Technical Education Center. UAS School of Career Education in Juneau announces 2015 Saturday Sessions during the month of February in celebration of Career and Technical Education (CTE) Month. For more information send an email to [career.ed@uas.alaska.edu](mailto:career.ed@uas.alaska.edu) or call the staff at 796-6120.

**Mardi Gras Masquerade Ball,** 7 p.m., Recreation Center. Part of the campus stomp dance series and back by popular demand. No prior dance experience is required and instruction is provided. Live music! We encourage everyone to join us, especially beginners. For more information send an email to [jypres@uas.alaska.edu](mailto:jypres@uas.alaska.edu) or call 796-6517.

### SUNDAY, MAR. 1

**Deadline for Late Applications for Spring Graduation,** All Day, UAS. Additional fees apply. For more information send an email to [registrar@uas.alaska.edu](mailto:registrar@uas.alaska.edu) or call 796-6100.

### MONDAY, MAR. 2

**Open Gym: Dodgeball,** 7 p.m., Recreation Center. Ready to flash-back to grade school? Head over to drop-in dodgeball. It's fast, it's fun, and it's at the REC. For more information send an email to [rec\\_center@uas.alaska.edu](mailto:rec_center@uas.alaska.edu) or call the REC Center staff at 796-6544.

**Zumba,** 7 p.m., Recreation Center. Party yourself into shape at the REC! Feel the music, let loose, and dance the pounds and inches off! No experience is necessary. For more information send an email to [rec\\_center@uas.alaska.edu](mailto:rec_center@uas.alaska.edu) or call the REC Center staff at 796-6544.

### TUESDAY, MAR. 3

**Student Government Spring 2015 Meetings,** 8:30 a.m., Glacier View Room. Get Involved! Got questions regarding UAS? Come check out a Student Government

Meeting. UAS Student Government, the official student government of the University of Alaska Southeast, is responsible for representing student interests to the college administration and for facilitating the organization of a broad range of student committees that work to address issues and concerns and promote services that enhance students' experience at UAS. A significant responsibility of the UAS Student Government is to initiate and act upon legislation including proposals to appropriate USUAS-JC Funds as well as serving on at least two USUAS-JC standing committees. For more information send an email to [jypres@uas.alaska.edu](mailto:jypres@uas.alaska.edu).

**Open Gym: Basketball,** 7 p.m., Recreation Center. Join your friends or make friends playing basketball at the REC. All skill levels welcome! For more information send an email to [rec\\_center@uas.alaska.edu](mailto:rec_center@uas.alaska.edu) or call the REC Center staff at 796-6544.

### WEDNESDAY, MAR. 4

**Whale Wednesday,** All Day, UAS. First Wednesday of every month is Whale Wednesday! Show your UAS spirit and post using the hashtag #UasWhaleWednesday. For more information contact Eric Scott at [eric.scott@uas.alaska.edu](mailto:eric.scott@uas.alaska.edu).

**Open Gym: Volleyball,** 7 p.m., Recreation Center. Join your friends or make friends playing volleyball at the REC. All skill levels welcome! For more information send an email to [rec\\_center@uas.alaska.edu](mailto:rec_center@uas.alaska.edu) or call the REC Center staff at 796-6544.

**Zumba,** 7 p.m., Recreation Center. Party yourself into shape at the REC! Feel the music, let loose, and dance the pounds and inches off! No experience is necessary. For more information send an email to [rec\\_center@uas.alaska.edu](mailto:rec_center@uas.alaska.edu) or call the REC Center staff at 796-6544.

### THURSDAY, MAR. 5

**Open Gym: Soccer,** 7 p.m., Recreation Center. Join your friends or make friends playing soccer at the REC. A fast paced, fun sport. All skill levels welcome! For more information send an email to [rec\\_center@uas.alaska.edu](mailto:rec_center@uas.alaska.edu) or call the REC Center staff at 796-6544.



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